

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

OFFICE OF PLANNING

MAYOR'S PUBLIC HEARING

KENNEDY STREET, NORTHWEST, REVITALIZATION PLAN

Washington, D.C.

Thursday, March 13, 2008

<p>2</p> <p>1 PARTICIPANTS:</p> <p>2 MALAIKA ABERNATHY</p> <p>3 Ward 4 Planner, Office of Planning</p> <p>4 MURIEL BOWSER</p> <p>5 Councilmember, Ward 4</p> <p>6 HAZEL BROADNAX</p> <p>7 Emory Beacon of Light</p> <p>8 ABDUL HASIM DAWKINS</p> <p>9 Beacon Brightwood Business Alliance</p> <p>10 BILL FITZHUMI</p> <p>11 Advisory Committee</p> <p>12 ESTRELLITA FITZHUMI</p> <p>13 Advisory Committee</p> <p>14 GERALDINE GARDNER</p> <p>15 Associate Director, Office of Planning</p> <p>16 BILL HASSAN</p> <p>17 400 Block of Ingraham Street</p> <p>18 ANDREA RICHARDSON</p> <p>19 Resident, Kennedy Street Corridor</p> <p>20 SHARON STEIN</p> <p>21 Advisory Committee</p> <p>22 HARRIET TREGONING</p> <p>Director, Office of Planning</p> <p>• • • • •</p>	<p>4</p> <p>1 So, before we get going, we have a</p> <p>2 very simple agenda tonight that I just would</p> <p>3 like to review with you. Hopefully you've</p> <p>4 received an agenda. We also have copies of</p> <p>5 the plan up at the front of the room here.</p> <p>6 If you have not signed in, please do so and</p> <p>7 also indicate if you would like to provide</p> <p>8 any testimony tonight.</p> <p>9 Just a word about this testimony.</p> <p>10 This does not have to be a very formal</p> <p>11 process. You can stand up here and speak</p> <p>12 from your heart. Just give us your comments</p> <p>13 You do not need to have any written</p> <p>14 statements that have been prepared or</p> <p>15 submitted to us. Everything that you say</p> <p>16 tonight will be captured in the public</p> <p>17 record. We have a recording system here and</p> <p>18 these two gentlemen will be capturing all of</p> <p>19 the information to us that you say tonight.</p> <p>20 We're going to go over the</p> <p>21 instructions a little bit more specifically</p> <p>22 in a few minutes, but we'd also like to hear</p>
<p>3</p> <p>1 PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>2 (7:04 p.m.)</p> <p>3 MS. GARDNER: Welcome to the</p> <p>4 mayor's public hearing for the Kennedy Street</p> <p>5 Revitalization Plan. My name is Geraldine</p> <p>6 Gardner and I'm the associate director for</p> <p>7 neighborhood planning in the D.C. Office of</p> <p>8 Planning. And it's nice to see so many</p> <p>9 familiar faces that have been participating</p> <p>10 in this planning process.</p> <p>11 Just about over a year now we began</p> <p>12 with a series of small meetings with</p> <p>13 community members and the Advisory Committee</p> <p>14 in late March and early April of last year,</p> <p>15 and we kicked off a public process in June of</p> <p>16 last year. So, this has been a great and</p> <p>17 rewarding process for our office. We really</p> <p>18 appreciate the level of involvement,</p> <p>19 commitment, and dedication that you all have</p> <p>20 shown as a community to really shaping what's</p> <p>21 going to happen here along Kennedy Street and</p> <p>22 in your neighborhood.</p>	<p>5</p> <p>1 from our distinguished guests who have joined</p> <p>2 us this evening. I'd like to introduce the</p> <p>3 director of our Office of Planning, Harriet</p> <p>4 Tregoning, to offer a word of welcome.</p> <p>5 MS. TREGONING: Thank you,</p> <p>6 Geraldine. Welcome to the mayor's hearing</p> <p>7 for the Kennedy Street Corridor</p> <p>8 Revitalization Plan. As Geraldine mentioned</p> <p>9 the purpose of tonight's hearing is for our</p> <p>10 office to receive your testimony on the draft</p> <p>11 plan that was released in early February. We</p> <p>12 invite you to present your comments tonight</p> <p>13 and suggestions on the plan, which then we'll</p> <p>14 use to make any revisions prior to submitting</p> <p>15 it to Councilmember Bowser and the City</p> <p>16 Council for consideration.</p> <p>17 I particularly want to thank the</p> <p>18 members of the Advisory Committee and the</p> <p>19 folks who are here in this room for working</p> <p>20 so diligently throughout this nine-month</p> <p>21 planning process. Nine months is an</p> <p>22 auspicious amount of time to be working on a</p>

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<p style="text-align: right;">6</p> <p>1 plan and I really think that we kind of 2 collectively have created something very 3 valuable. 4 This was a great community for us 5 to work in because folks were so active, 6 especially the advisory community, even 7 working on your own to further flesh out the 8 vision statement and the recommendations. 9 And there's nothing more gratifying for 10 people who are doing planning and trying to 11 help articulate the aspirations and figure 12 out a way to give them physical in a form 13 than having folks who are really engaged and 14 you know, really care about their community 15 and its future and putting in the hours to 16 make sure that their vision gets put forward. 17 So tonight is really the culmination of all 18 that hard work, and we really look forward to 19 hearing your comments on the final draft 20 plan. 21 I also want to thank our ward for 22 planner Malaika Abernathy and the consultant</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">8</p> <p>1 the (off mike). It's good to see you. Good 2 evening, everybody. I'm delighted to be here 3 to see so many of you again. 4 And I know that you've been working 5 hand- in-hand with the government agencies to 6 really work on a plan that's suitable for our 7 neighborhood over the last nine months. And 8 I know that we're all very excited to have a 9 plan for you to have your comment on tonight 10 and you also have another opportunity when 11 it's presented at the council's public 12 hearing. 13 But I have spent a lot of time on 14 Kennedy Street with you, walking and looking 15 and spent a lot of time driving Kennedy 16 Street as well. I don't always tell people, 17 but at different times of the day or night I 18 kind of like to see what streets look like 19 because there's a different character at 20 different times of the day. And so we want 21 to, at all times of the day, have Kennedy 22 Street and surrounding blocks be a welcoming</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">7</p> <p>1 team of (off mike) for their hard work in 2 getting us through this process. Thank you 3 for showing Malaika the love, I appreciate 4 that. 5 You know, plans are just plans, 6 right, unless they get implemented. So we 7 really -- you know, I kind of consider this 8 nine-month period our introduction to each 9 other and we really look forward to working 10 with you to implement the plan that we're 11 putting forward tonight. So, we're going to 12 rely on strong local organizations, the great 13 leadership in this neighborhood, so that you 14 can continue to be the stewards of growth and 15 investment that happen in your community. 16 So, we look forward to continuing that 17 partnership as we move on to plan 18 implementation. 19 I would -- it's really my honor now 20 to introduce your councilmember, Muriel 21 Bowser. 22 MS. BOWSER: Bill (off mike) was</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">9</p> <p>1 environment for people to live and shop and 2 be entertained and all of those things. 3 So, we know that we have some 4 significant work to do, but what's important 5 now is that we have a framework that 6 everybody has participated in and everybody 7 has bought into. And I know that there was a 8 lot of push and pull, and that's good, 9 because that means that we have come up with 10 a product that many people have a stake in. 11 And we certainly have the biggest stake in is 12 making sure that it gets implemented. Plan, 13 plan, plan, but action, action, action. And 14 that's our job is to make sure that we're 15 putting the resources in place to implement a 16 plan. 17 So, I'm looking forward to hearing 18 your comments tonight for as long as I can be 19 here, and certainly hearing your comments 20 later in the month, later in April, actually, 21 when we present this. 22 Thank you very much.</p>

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<p style="text-align: right;">10</p> <p>1 MS. GARDNER: Thank you.</p> <p>2 Councilmember. Next I'd like to call up</p> <p>3 Malaika Abernathy, the Ward 4 planner, and</p> <p>4 offer my thanks to her for her great</p> <p>5 leadership and hard work on this process.</p> <p>6 She joined our office in June or July?</p> <p>7 MS. ABERNATHY: July.</p> <p>8 MS. GARDNER: July of last year.</p> <p>9 kind of right at the beginning or midpoint of</p> <p>10 this process, and really dove in feet first</p> <p>11 and has done a wonderful job. So, Malaika</p> <p>12 will provide some background for those of you</p> <p>13 who hopefully this isn't your first meeting,</p> <p>14 but she'll just recap for those of you who've</p> <p>15 been participating in the process and the</p> <p>16 major recommendations.</p> <p>17 MS. ABERNATHY: Thank you. Hi.</p> <p>18 For the record, my name is Malaika Abernathy.</p> <p>19 I'm the Ward 4 planner for the Office of</p> <p>20 Planning. It's been a great pleasure working</p> <p>21 with many of you and with my colleagues at</p> <p>22 the Office of Planning and other District</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">12</p> <p>1 throughout the planning process. The plan</p> <p>2 comprehensively addresses economic</p> <p>3 revitalization and business development and</p> <p>4 provides guidance on improving the overall</p> <p>5 look of Kennedy Street. The recommendations</p> <p>6 of this plan build upon and support ongoing</p> <p>7 district-wide projects, such as the retail</p> <p>8 action strategy, which is an analysis of 20</p> <p>9 target areas, including the Kennedy Street</p> <p>10 Corridor, that examines ways in which the</p> <p>11 city's retail base can be expanded. So,</p> <p>12 we're looking for the recommendations of this</p> <p>13 plan to build upon that citywide initiative.</p> <p>14 We also hope that the</p> <p>15 recommendations of this plan support -- they</p> <p>16 will support, the Neighborhood Investment</p> <p>17 Fund, which is a district- wide initiative</p> <p>18 that provides a framework for investment</p> <p>19 priorities for 12 areas, one of which is the</p> <p>20 Brightwood target area and one of which</p> <p>21 Kennedy Street plan also covers.</p> <p>22 So, those are two initiatives that</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">11</p> <p>1 agencies in the development of this plan.</p> <p>2 It's also a great opportunity for us to be</p> <p>3 here at the Kennedy Street Senior Wellness</p> <p>4 Center, which is a great example of the types</p> <p>5 of public investments that could occur and</p> <p>6 spur economic revitalization. So I think</p> <p>7 that this is a great opportunity for us to</p> <p>8 experience the types of investments that can</p> <p>9 occur over time.</p> <p>10 So, also, just wanted to make note</p> <p>11 that I really appreciate the Advisory</p> <p>12 Committee's assistance and help in developing</p> <p>13 the recommendations of this plan. I know</p> <p>14 that it was a very, at times, gruesome</p> <p>15 opportunity, but I think it is an opportunity</p> <p>16 for Kennedy Street and for the residents of</p> <p>17 Brightwood Park and South Manor Park.</p> <p>18 So, with that entail, I wanted to</p> <p>19 just touch base and piggyback that the plan</p> <p>20 also has, through the work of the Advisory</p> <p>21 Committee, established a vision for Kennedy</p> <p>22 Street that we've enforced and supported</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">13</p> <p>1 this plan is building upon the</p> <p>2 recommendations of.</p> <p>3 Our planning team worked very</p> <p>4 closely and very diligently over the</p> <p>5 nine-month period to analyze the existing</p> <p>6 conditions and to provide a market analysis</p> <p>7 for the Kennedy Street area. We found that</p> <p>8 the corridor can support a substantial unmet</p> <p>9 demand of retail and services of over 40- to</p> <p>10 50,000 square feet of new retail and retail</p> <p>11 services. The types of retail and services</p> <p>12 include small cafes, full-service</p> <p>13 restaurants, and hardware stores, among other</p> <p>14 types of things. So, if there isn't a strong</p> <p>15 unmet demand for the provision of these types</p> <p>16 of opportunities that this plan will build</p> <p>17 upon.</p> <p>18 We also heard that enhancing retail</p> <p>19 opportunities, especially those owned by</p> <p>20 local small businesses along the corridor, is</p> <p>21 a critical issue for many of you, and this</p> <p>22 plan addressed guidance -- will provide</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">14</p> <p>1 guidance for that initiative. It provides</p> <p>2 guidance on how future mixed-use development</p> <p>3 incorporating ground-floor retail as well as</p> <p>4 residential above, can be realized in various</p> <p>5 development opportunities. We also have</p> <p>6 boards that are in the back that show what</p> <p>7 the types of development opportunities will</p> <p>8 be. And they're just that, they're</p> <p>9 opportunities. But we work very closely with</p> <p>10 you to make sure that they're representative</p> <p>11 of the types of things that you want.</p> <p>12 This plan also provides specific</p> <p>13 direction on urban design guidance, which</p> <p>14 supports improving the look of Kennedy Street</p> <p>15 through celebrating and strengthening the</p> <p>16 existing patterns of place, balancing</p> <p>17 residential livability and retail vitality,</p> <p>18 and maintaining the overall neighborhood's</p> <p>19 character and scale.</p> <p>20 And lastly, the plan provides a</p> <p>21 strategic approach to assist existing</p> <p>22 businesses by having -- establishing a</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">16</p> <p>1 prior to submitting to the council.</p> <p>2 So, with that said, I'll turn it</p> <p>3 over to Geraldine and she can begin the</p> <p>4 testimony.</p> <p>5 MS. GARDNER: Okay, we're ready to</p> <p>6 get started.</p> <p>7 Just want to go over a few ground</p> <p>8 rules with you. For those of you which this</p> <p>9 is your first mayor's public hearing, we</p> <p>10 allow three minutes of oral testimony. We'll</p> <p>11 call the witnesses, those that have</p> <p>12 registered in advance will go first. If you</p> <p>13 have signed in tonight and would like to</p> <p>14 provide testimony, please indicate that on</p> <p>15 the sign-in sheet that's over here. We will</p> <p>16 call you in the order that you signed in</p> <p>17 afterwards.</p> <p>18 Emily Yates, also a new staffer at</p> <p>19 the Office of Planning, is going to be</p> <p>20 keeping time. She has some neat little signs</p> <p>21 that she's going to use, so if you see her</p> <p>22 jumping up and down shaking the sign, please</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">15</p> <p>1 business strategy that will identify ways in</p> <p>2 which district resources can be available and</p> <p>3 easily accessible for many of the businesses,</p> <p>4 and I see many of the business owners here,</p> <p>5 can access. So, I think the plan is very</p> <p>6 strong in that aspect.</p> <p>7 The plan is available over here.</p> <p>8 Today is the last day for public comment, to</p> <p>9 receive public comments, so I look forward to</p> <p>10 the testimony today.</p> <p>11 After we receive testimony today,</p> <p>12 we'll go through another analysis and</p> <p>13 transmit those changes to Councilmember</p> <p>14 Bowser and the council. The council will</p> <p>15 then, as was alluded to earlier, provide a</p> <p>16 public hearing that's scheduled for some time</p> <p>17 in the spring 2008.</p> <p>18 In today's hearing we look forward</p> <p>19 to recording your testimony this evening</p> <p>20 regarding the plan. We recognize that this</p> <p>21 is a draft document and we welcome your input</p> <p>22 on how it can be strengthened and enhanced</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">17</p> <p>1 be mindful that we want to allow you your</p> <p>2 opportunity, but we also have others that we</p> <p>3 need to get to this evening.</p> <p>4 Again, if you don't have to</p> <p>5 accompany your oral testimony with anything</p> <p>6 written, we encourage everyone to participate</p> <p>7 tonight and offer your comments.</p> <p>8 So, if there aren't any questions</p> <p>9 about the process, we're -- we'll get</p> <p>10 started. Does anyone have any questions</p> <p>11 about the process? No? Okay. So, our first</p> <p>12 witness this evening is Mr. Fitzhume.</p> <p>13 MR. FITZHUME: Good evening. I'm</p> <p>14 going to start off with my summary.</p> <p>15 Malaika just referred to enforcing</p> <p>16 and supporting us. That is absolutely true.</p> <p>17 The Office of Planning informed us when we</p> <p>18 first came that they were here to determine</p> <p>19 what the community wanted and that they were</p> <p>20 going to take what the community wanted,</p> <p>21 develop it into a revitalization plan, and</p> <p>22 present it to the mayor and to the City</p>

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<p style="text-align: right;">18</p> <p>1 Council. We feel confident, most of the 2 people on the Advisory Committee, that this 3 was done. 4 They also spent time going over and 5 over our various views, and again virtually 6 all of the members feel the draft plan that 7 was presented does represent accurately the 8 things that we said that we would like. 9 There were times when we were not clear about 10 what the plan was saying. We raised 11 questions, we had problems. The Office of 12 Planning also responded to us in the next 13 meeting, updated their plan, made their plan 14 more specific so that we were very clear 15 about what they were saying. So they were 16 very responsive to us. 17 The firm that they had, Goode & 18 Clancy, I'd say the same thing about. They 19 were also very responsive. They were very 20 energetic and very supportive. They also not 21 only helped us do the plan, they helped us to 22 understand that we had to prepare ourselves</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">20</p> <p>1 Those are the conclusions. Where 2 are those time numbers? I haven't seen 3 anything yet. 4 SPEAKER: You have a few more 5 seconds. 6 MR. FITZHUME: Oh, okay. I'd like 7 to say, then, that's about it. We've only 8 been in this neighborhood for three years. I 9 became a member of this Advisory Committee 10 really only when we started the walk-through 11 and I became a member. I attended all the 12 community meetings, but only the Advisory 13 Committee because I was going to use my 14 camera that day. But I got very interested 15 in the Advisory Committee not because we were 16 trying to push our views, but because I was 17 interested in getting to know this community 18 to see how this process works and whatever. 19 Can you give me a five number? 20 Thank you very much. 21 MS. GARDNER: Okay, two important 22 corrections to the instructions. Please</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">19</p> <p>1 for what happens after this plan is done 2 because the work has to continue, as Muriel 3 said. 4 They also provided us certain kinds 5 of other support in that the whole idea of 6 taking on the various roles that we had to 7 do, they were very flexible on meeting our 8 request. There were times we got it in late 9 and they changed meeting times, they added 10 new meetings, they added new sessions for 11 responding to the plan. So they did a lot of 12 stuff to accomplish what we were talking 13 about. 14 The other thing I'd like to say in 15 the conclusion is to thank Ron Austin, who I 16 don't see here tonight. Ron Austin is with a 17 community that's on the east side of Kennedy 18 Street, and his community neighborhood group 19 is the one that got this whole project 20 started. So, all of us are benefiting from 21 what Ron Austin did. I'd like to thank him, 22 also.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">21</p> <p>1 state your first and last name, and if you 2 don't mind providing us with your address for 3 the record, we'd appreciate that. 4 Our next witness is Hazel Broadnax. 5 MS. BROADNAX: Good evening, 6 everyone, the Council, and the planning 7 office and the community stakeholders. My 8 name is Hazel Broadnax. I live at 717 9 Quackenbos Street. I go church at 6100 10 Georgia Avenue. I work at 6120 Georgia 11 Avenue and the Emory -- I represent the Emory 12 Beacon of Light, which is a faith-based CDC 13 located at 6120 Georgia Avenue, that grew out 14 of the ministries of Emory United Methodist 15 Church. 16 We are committed to the 17 revitalization of Kennedy Street, and Kennedy 18 Street is a part of -- am I doing that? 19 SPEAKER: I think it's that thing 20 that you just (off mike). 21 MS. BROADNAX: It's a part of -- 22 don't count that. It's a part of our target</p>

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<p style="text-align: right;">22</p> <p>1 zone as well as the Brightwood community. We</p> <p>2 are very strong proponents of affordable and</p> <p>3 low-income housing, and would not like for</p> <p>4 this initiative to displace any of the</p> <p>5 current residents as a part of the</p> <p>6 revitalization effort.</p> <p>7 In my written testimony, I have</p> <p>8 some other things about the Beacon of Light,</p> <p>9 but I'm going to save my time, Richard, and</p> <p>10 talk about the revitalization plan. It is</p> <p>11 our hope that revitalization will stay true</p> <p>12 to the major policy recommendation that was</p> <p>13 mentioned in the background section of the</p> <p>14 document, which is to promote the vitality</p> <p>15 and diversity of Washington's neighborhood</p> <p>16 commercial areas by retaining existing</p> <p>17 businesses, attracting new businesses, and</p> <p>18 approving the mix of goods and services</p> <p>19 available to the residents. We join the</p> <p>20 Beacon Brightwood Business Alliance in</p> <p>21 desiring the retention and improvement for</p> <p>22 existing businesses along the Kennedy Street</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">24</p> <p>1 because Kennedy Street needs attention</p> <p>2 regardless of whether or not this</p> <p>3 revitalization plan takes effect immediately.</p> <p>4 We hope that Kennedy Street will continue to</p> <p>5 be looked at. We want it to be a place where</p> <p>6 people can work, live, and come to visit, not</p> <p>7 just from the Brightwood neighborhood, but we</p> <p>8 keep saying we want people from all over the</p> <p>9 city to say come to Kennedy Street to these</p> <p>10 nice little new shops and things that we plan</p> <p>11 to see as a result of the revitalization.</p> <p>12 And the Emory Beacon of Light and the Emory</p> <p>13 Church stand ready to be a part of that</p> <p>14 revitalization. Thank you.</p> <p>15 MS. GARDNER: Ms. Andrea</p> <p>16 Richardson.</p> <p>17 MS. RICHARDSON: Hi, my name's</p> <p>18 Andrea Richardson. I live at 610 Longfellow</p> <p>19 Street, Northwest. I am a lifelong</p> <p>20 Washingtonian. I'm currently a homeowner in</p> <p>21 the 600 block of Longfellow Street, just one</p> <p>22 block north of Kennedy Street. Most of my</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">23</p> <p>1 Corridor, and we also support the</p> <p>2 public-private partnership initiatives that</p> <p>3 will have to take place in order for this</p> <p>4 plan to see fruition.</p> <p>5 Included in the things that all of</p> <p>6 us who live and work in the Brightwood area</p> <p>7 would like to see that were in the plan are</p> <p>8 some of the open areas along the corridor for</p> <p>9 seating, adequate landscaping and additional</p> <p>10 trees, the solution to the parking problem,</p> <p>11 to explore new retail as well. The most</p> <p>12 excited I think the Advisory Committee got</p> <p>13 was the night they talked about a Whole Foods</p> <p>14 or Fresh Fields or something coming to</p> <p>15 Kennedy Street. All of these things would</p> <p>16 take place in an improved -- according to the</p> <p>17 planning office's language, improved</p> <p>18 physical, social, and economic environment as</p> <p>19 outlined.</p> <p>20 We hope the implementation of</p> <p>21 Kennedy Street will be put on a fast track</p> <p>22 and not be bogged down in the bureaucracy,</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">25</p> <p>1 immediate family is also from D.C., dating</p> <p>2 back to the early 1900s, and my family has</p> <p>3 owned businesses in Northwest D.C. And I</p> <p>4 grew up hearing many stories about what the</p> <p>5 Brightwood and Petworth communities were like</p> <p>6 in the mid-19th century. And my decision to</p> <p>7 buy a home on Longfellow Street was largely</p> <p>8 made, in part, because of the potential that</p> <p>9 I saw in the Kennedy Street Corridor for what</p> <p>10 it could become and what it could go back to.</p> <p>11 I've been involved in this planning</p> <p>12 process since the beginning, and from the</p> <p>13 beginning it's been intensively</p> <p>14 community-focused. The Office of Planning</p> <p>15 was able to get many members of our community</p> <p>16 involved in the planning process, and a</p> <p>17 diverse group of citizens regularly</p> <p>18 participated in the development of this plan.</p> <p>19 And the Office of Planning went to</p> <p>20 extraordinary efforts to get residents</p> <p>21 involved, and I commend them for all the</p> <p>22 energy and hard work that they've put into</p>

7 (Pages 22 to 25)

<p style="text-align: right;">26</p> <p>1 this. They were always clear in their goal, 2 that their goal was to develop a plan that 3 accurately reflects the needs of the 4 surrounding community, and this has been 5 achieved. 6 The current condition of Kennedy 7 Street, to me, is just atrocious and it 8 should be an embarrassment to this city. 9 Kennedy Street was once a friendly, 10 close-knit community. People weren't afraid 11 to walk to the store or to purchase 12 groceries. During the four years I've lived 13 here, I've never patronized a store on 14 Kennedy Street. And I currently do about 90 15 percent of my shopping in Maryland. And 16 that's -- every time I do it, that's tax 17 dollars leaving the city that really could be 18 better put to use in our city. 19 The implications for revitalizing 20 Kennedy Street just, to me, are significant. 21 Revitalizing the corridor to attract 22 businesses that residents want, as we have</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">28</p> <p>1 at some point that has all the goods and 2 services we need, so we're not getting in our 3 cars every time we want to go shopping. 4 And I think this also has -- this 5 plan has the potential to benefit 6 middle-income residents. The Brightwood 7 community that we live in, it's a solidly 8 middle-income community, as the demographic 9 data and the plan showed. And, you know, a 10 lot of us can't afford to be spending 11 hundreds of dollars on fuel. If we can bring 12 stores into Kennedy Street that we can walk 13 to, that will help a lot of our community's 14 residents. 15 This plan reflects the community's 16 wants and desires. And it's really been 17 amazing during this process to see so many 18 people come out and be involved and provide 19 their input, and I look forward to seeing the 20 plan implemented. Thank you. 21 MS. GARDNER: Okay, I'm going to 22 make another plea for witnesses. I only saw</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">27</p> <p>1 identified in the plan, will help keep tax 2 revenues in D.C. And during the planning 3 process, residents in the immediate area 4 frequently expressed the desire to see really 5 basic services: Grocery stores, hardware 6 stores, a sit-down restaurant that they could 7 go to. And increasing pedestrian traffic by 8 bringing these businesses to Kennedy Street 9 will help eliminate the abandoned buildings 10 that we currently have, and hopefully reduce 11 some of the crime, and will simply make 12 Kennedy Street look like a better place to be 13 and a place that people want to come to. 14 Having stores within walking 15 distance is also environmentally beneficial 16 as people will not have to get into their 17 cars to obtain everyday items. I'm sure 18 everybody in this room who lives within the 19 vicinity of Kennedy Street, when you go 20 grocery shopping you probably have to get in 21 your car to go do that. And I personally 22 hope to see a grocery store on Kennedy Street</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">29</p> <p>1 one additional name signed up, so please 2 don't be shy. We encourage you, we want to 3 hear from you. 4 The next witness is Abdul Hasim 5 Dawkins. 6 MR. DAWKINS: Good evening, 7 everyone. My name is Hasim Dawkins. I live 8 at 1121 Tewkesbury Place and I own a business 9 on 646 Georgia Avenue. And I come here 10 representing the Beacon Brightwood Business 11 Alliance. 12 As our city moves forward, our 13 government moves forward with achieving it's 14 goals of growing an inclusive city by 15 revitalizing neighborhoods and restoring 16 economic health, I thought it was very 17 important that while we do those, we also be 18 sensitive to the concerns and needs of the 19 current residents and also the current 20 business owners who operate and live in the 21 neighborhood, which is one of the main 22 reasons why I was very interested in the</p>

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<p style="text-align: right;">30</p> <p>1 Kennedy Street Revitalization Plan. I feel 2 as though the Office of Planning really put a 3 lot of effort towards trying to achieve that, 4 and really synthesized all the wills and the 5 needs that the people said they wanted into a 6 formalized plan. I think they've done a very 7 excellent job of that. 8 As a member, we went through a lot 9 of differences. We had a lot of concerns and 10 many people voiced those concerns and I feel 11 like this plan is crystallized. And one of 12 the people who couldn't make it was Mr. 13 Green. He was very fervent in his opinion of 14 what the plan was. And people are laughing 15 now because they know, but even Malaika still 16 in the Office of Planning managed to put 17 actually a quote of his in the plan, which is 18 that we have out from the community a base 19 incubator. And that was in the plan. 20 So, along with those things and the 21 vision of growing Kennedy Street, and also 22 the five things which stemmed from -- which</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">32</p> <p>1 shopping on Kennedy Street, I would like my 2 guests who visit me internationally to take a 3 walk on Kennedy Street. And I'm sure that 4 that day will come. 5 I'm also here to speak for the 6 dogs. Because I hope that at some point -- 7 dogs can't speak for themselves, Madam 8 Council-lady. Our neighborhood has changed 9 somewhat with the influx of a number of dogs. 10 And I have nothing against dogs, but I would 11 hope that we are able to get a dog park at 12 some point in the community for those dog 13 lovers. 14 And I hope that that's part of the 15 plan. The last thing I'd like to say is that 16 when the Planning Committee has its budget 17 hearings, that the community should be made 18 aware of that. It becomes very important. 19 Having spent 35 years working with the 20 District government, I know that when those 21 budget hearings come up that we need to be 22 there to support our Council-lady, and we</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">31</p> <p>1 the recommendations stemmed from, I feel as 2 though that is why I support this plan. And 3 that's it. 4 MS. GARDNER: Okay, Sharon Stein? 5 MR. HASSAN: She's not here yet, 6 but I'll speak in her place. 7 MS. GARDNER: Wonderful. 8 MR. HASSAN: She may come, she told 9 me. My name is Bill Hassan. I live at 416 10 Ingraham Street, Northwest, and I'm here 11 representing the 400 block of Ingraham and 12 the 5200 block -- 5300 block of 4th Street, 13 an organization that's been in existence for 14 over 40 years. 15 I do shop on Kennedy Street, and I 16 must say that I'm really excited about this 17 program. Nine months goes by very fast. I 18 remember when we started meeting at Emory. I 19 never thought we'd come to this day. 20 But we do support this plan. It's 21 a great plan. Everything was changed, 22 nothing stays the same. And while I do my</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">33</p> <p>1 need to be there for the other council people 2 to hear our desires, because it's all going 3 to come down to funding at some point. 4 So, I would ask that you support 5 this plan, support the budget process, and 6 support the dogs. 7 MS. GARDNER: Okay, folks, that was 8 our last witness that had signed up. But I 9 know that there are a lot of people here, so 10 -- a lot of our Advisory Committee members 11 are also here. I'd like to challenge anyone 12 to come up and just offer a few words, 13 doesn't have to be complicated. We have the 14 room until 9:00 p.m. So, any takers? 15 Okay, let me -- can we close the 16 record for a moment? 17 (Recess) 18 MS. GARDNER: Thank you. 19 MS. FITZHUME: My name is Estrelita 20 Fitzhume. My husband and I, Richard, live at 21 431 Ingraham Street, Northwest. As he said, 22 we've moved in only about three years ago,</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">34</p> <p>1 and our interest was simply having a vibrant 2 community, a vibrant neighborhood, which 3 includes Kennedy Street, and so we both got 4 involved in this effort.</p> <p>5 It's been a long process, but a 6 very -- and sometimes intense, but that's the 7 way democracy is when you have community 8 participation. And often as democracy goes, 9 you end up having a real endorsement of the 10 plan. And I, for one, after a long, involved 11 discussion as a member of the Advisory 12 Committee, very much endorse this plan. Even 13 though we thought this was the heavy lifting, 14 the heavy lifting is implementing it. And I 15 certainly encourage -- I hope I will 16 certainly stay involved in making it a 17 reality, and I certainly encourage the 18 community here to do the same.</p> <p>19 Please take a look at that plan if 20 you haven't seen it. I think it's on your 21 website, and there are copies, so that you 22 can become familiar with it as we move ahead</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">36</p> <p>1 life, but I was very enthusiastic about this 2 one because it seemed to fit perfectly with 3 all the needs that I saw in the neighborhood, 4 with all the ideas that I thought would be 5 good for our neighborhood.</p> <p>6 From the minute that I moved into 7 my new house, which as I just mentioned is 8 just two blocks away from here, I had two 9 thoughts about Kennedy Street. From the 10 first time that I actually drove through the 11 neighborhood with my real estate agent I 12 looked at the place, I was stunned that such 13 valuable commercially-zoned real estate had, 14 so far, been overlooked by developers. And I 15 was worried that when developers finally and 16 inevitably did discover it, that they would 17 try to shoehorn ultra- modern high-rise condo 18 buildings onto it, and make it look like some 19 of the uglier parts of downtown.</p> <p>20 So, when I joined this committee, 21 those were my two concerns that were in the 22 back of my mind, and I think that our current</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">35</p> <p>1 as a community to implement it. Thank you 2 very much.</p> <p>3 SPEAKER: Sharon's here.</p> <p>4 MS. STEIN: Hi, sorry I'm late.</p> <p>5 MS. GARDNER: We'll let you take 6 off your coat. So, our next witness is 7 Sharon Stein.</p> <p>8 MS. STEIN: Hi, sorry to keep 9 everyone waiting. My name is Sharon Stein, 10 and I'm a resident of Ingraham Street right 11 around the corner, and also a member of the 12 Kennedy Street Advisory Committee, as are 13 several of my neighbors who are here tonight.</p> <p>14 I volunteered for the Kennedy 15 Street Advisory Committee before there was 16 ever a meeting held, the first time I ever 17 heard that this was even under consideration, 18 after a city representative mentioned it at 19 our Neighborhood Watch meeting. I rarely get 20 involved in city government projects. I've 21 never really been involved in any local 22 government boards or committees before in my</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">37</p> <p>1 revitalization plan addresses both of those 2 concerns. We tried really hard to make sure 3 that this plan helps us to bring life and 4 vibrancy to what is currently a very 5 valuable, but kind of shabby area, and to 6 protect Kennedy Street from the kind of crass 7 commercialization that gives redevelopment 8 such a bad name.</p> <p>9 The representatives of the D.C. 10 Government and of Goody Clancy were very 11 open-minded when we started this process. 12 They were very anxious to hear what we had to 13 say. They did not seem anxious to have us 14 fit any preconceived notions that they 15 brought with them. And I think that this 16 plan reflects what all the neighbors on the 17 Advisory Committee stressed to them: That we 18 want refurbishment of this area, that we 19 don't want large-scale redevelopment, that we 20 want to preserve the Main Street feel of 21 Kennedy Street, that we favor small and local 22 businesses where possible, and that we want</p>

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<p style="text-align: right;">38</p> <p>1 to attract the kind of establishments that</p> <p>2 would be useful on a day-to-day basis, like</p> <p>3 groceries and coffee shops.</p> <p>4 At first, I think the people we</p> <p>5 were dealing with were a little surprised</p> <p>6 that our aims were so modest. I think they</p> <p>7 expected us to have more grandiose ideas.</p> <p>8 But we told them quite clearly that our main</p> <p>9 goals were to have things within walking</p> <p>10 distance, like a place where we could buy</p> <p>11 milk or sit down for a nice meal or get a cup</p> <p>12 of coffee. We unanimously supported the</p> <p>13 simple, low- cost changes that could help</p> <p>14 improve Kennedy Street, things like better</p> <p>15 trash pickup, more trees and green spaces,</p> <p>16 and better signs. And I think that this plan</p> <p>17 reflects those kind of modest and attainable</p> <p>18 and affordable changes. And I think those</p> <p>19 changes could vastly improve this area, bring</p> <p>20 in the business that we need, and, most</p> <p>21 importantly, do it all without changing the</p> <p>22 overall character or the feel for the street.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">40</p> <p>1 SPEAKER: (off mike)</p> <p>2 MS. GARDNER: Okay, close the</p> <p>3 record.</p> <p>4 (Whereupon, at 7:44 p.m. the</p> <p>5 PROCEEDINGS were adjourned.)</p> <p>6 * * * * *</p> <p>7</p> <p>8</p> <p>9</p> <p>10</p> <p>11</p> <p>12</p> <p>13</p> <p>14</p> <p>15</p> <p>16</p> <p>17</p> <p>18</p> <p>19</p> <p>20</p> <p>21</p> <p>22</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">39</p> <p>1 I've put some more comments into</p> <p>2 the written part of my thing that I wrote up,</p> <p>3 but I don't think you all really need to hear</p> <p>4 them. I just think you do need to know that</p> <p>5 we had a lot of people from this couple of</p> <p>6 block area who did get involved in this, who</p> <p>7 are very supportive of this plan. We worked</p> <p>8 very hard on this and we're very pleased with</p> <p>9 the way it turned out. We think it's a very</p> <p>10 good blueprint that's going to help us in the</p> <p>11 future. Thanks.</p> <p>12 MS. GARDNER: All right, folks, I</p> <p>13 believe this is the last call. There must be</p> <p>14 a good show on tonight because you all want</p> <p>15 to get out of here. Any last witnesses? ✓</p> <p>16 Anyone else that would like to put something</p> <p>17 on the record?</p> <p>18 Okay, well, with that, I'll close</p> <p>19 the hearing. I'd like to really thank you --</p> <p>20 oops, wait. Yes, ma'am?</p> <p>21 SPEAKER: (off mike)</p> <p>22 MS. GARDNER: Okay, keep it closed</p>	

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